

Wilson Introduces Legislation to Support American Steel

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the steel industry shrinks across the country and throughout Ohio, Congressman Charlie Wilson introduced H.R. 3034, The Investment in American Steel Act of 2009.

As the country moves toward energy independence, the bill would ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested in American-made steel and our nation's steelworkers.

"I've watched with sadness as thousands of workers in the steel industry and steel-related industries in and around my district have lost their jobs in the past couple months," Wilson said. "After attending recent briefings and hearings on the state of steel in this country, it has become obvious to me that steel will play a significant role in helping to develop and expand wind energy. I don't think there is any reason in the world that those big wind turbines can't be built with steel made in the Ohio Valley."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included a tax credit for companies manufacturing clean, renewable energy, like wind energy.

"I believe that if a company wants to receive a tax credit for building windmills here in the United States, they should use American-made steel. If they use foreign steel, we shouldn't be giving them a tax incentive. Under this legislation, if your company uses 100% American steel it will get 100% of the Recovery tax credit. If it only uses 50% American steel, it should only get 50% of the credit."

Wilson also discussed his bill on the floor of the U.S. House this morning.

"During this difficult economic time, it is more important than ever that we make an investment in both our nations' workers and in the U.S. steel industry. My bill will accomplish just that," Wilson stated in his speech to the House.

The bill has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.